



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/893,185	06/27/2001	Kazuya Suzuki	33733	3883

116 7590 12/12/2002

PEARNE & GORDON LLP
526 SUPERIOR AVENUE EAST
SUITE 1200
CLEVELAND, OH 44114-1484

EXAMINER

SUAREZ, FELIX E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2857	

DATE MAILED: 12/12/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/893,185	SUZUKI ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Felix E Suarez	2857	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-13 and 17-29 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 14-16, 30 and 31 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 May 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Abstract

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it has more than 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because:

In FIG. 1A, block 7 is not labeled.

In FIG. 1B, block 121 is not labeled.

In FIG. 1C, block 121 is not labeled.

In FIG. 3, block 120 is not labeled.

In FIG. 4, block 120 is not labeled.

In FIG. 5A, block 7 is not labeled.

In FIG. 5B, block 221 is not labeled.

In FIG. 5C, block 221 is not labeled.

In FIG. 6A, block 7 is not labeled.

In FIG. 6B, block 321 is not labeled.

In FIG. 6C, block 321 is not labeled.

In FIG. 7, blocks 7 and 11 are not labeled.

Correction is required.

Minor Informalities

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 25 line 1 of the claim, phrase "a" should be –an--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Improper Multiple Dependent Claims

4. Claims 14, 15, 16, 30 and 31 objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claim has (have) not been further treated on the merits.

Claim 14 is dependent from multiple dependent claim 4.

Claim 15 is dependent from multiple dependent claims 4 and 12.

Claim 16 is dependent from multiple dependent claims 4, 12, 14 and 15.

Claims 30 and 31 are dependent from multiple dependent claims 20 and

28.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-13 and 17-29 are allowable.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 1-13 and 17-29 are allowable because the prior art, particularly Lys et al. [U.S. Patent No. 6,459,919], Johnson et al. [U.S. Patent No 5,629,869], Gotou et al. [U.S. Patent Application Publication No 2002/0013635], Watterson et al. [U.S. Patent Application Publication No 2002/0022551] fails to teach or suggest an appliance maintenance apparatus (or system) for maintaining a plurality of appliances each including a plurality of light indicators respectively emitting lights showing the operation states of each of said appliances, comprising:

light detecting means for detecting said lights emitted from said light indicators.

7. This application is in condition for allowance except for the formal matters noted above.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix Suarez, whose telephone number is (703) 308-4926. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc Hoff can be reached on (703) 308-1677. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7382 for regular communications and (703) 308-7382 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

November 29, 2002

F.S.


MARC S. HOFF
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800